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FROM: BONN

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TO: Secretary of State

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SENT DEPARTMENT 2261; REPEATED INFORMATION PRIORITY BERLIN 480,  
LONDON 249, PARIS 399, PRIORITY USAREUR 367, MOSCOW, USAREUR  
UNNUMBERED

REFERENCE: DEPARTMENT TELEGRAM 1908.

1. IN DISCUSSIONS YESTERDAY WITH BRITISH AND FRENCH HERE, BOTH EXPRESSED STRONG PREFERENCE FOR ADHERENCE TO COURSE PROPOSED BY POLITICAL ADVISERS, AS AMENDED BY DRAFT TRIPARTITE INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED EMBASSY TELEGRAM 2218, BUT SAID THAT SINCE MATTER BEING TAKEN UP IN THEIR RESPECTIVE CAPITALS THEY OBVIOUSLY MUST AWAIT INFORMATION AS TO THEIR GOVERNMENTS' REACTION. AS REPORTED PARIS TELEGRAM 3471 AND LONDON'S 4310, BOTH GOVERNMENTS REFERRED MATTER BACK TO EMBASSIES. FRENCH HAVE SUBSEQUENTLY TOLD US THAT THEIR AMBASSADOR DOES NOT REPEAT NOT AGREE COURSE PROPOSED BY DEPARTMENT. BRITISH SAY FOREIGN OFFICE TOLD THEM LAST NIGHT, WHEN EMBASSY HERE COMMUNICATED WITH THEM, THAT OUR EMBASSY LONDON WOULD BE INFORMED THIS MORNING IN SIMILAR VEIN, WHICH REPRESENTS CHANGE FROM LONDON'S 4310. BOTH HOPED THAT DEPARTMENT COULD THEREFORE BE PERSUADED TO ACCEPT TRIPARTITE INSTRUCTIONS AS IN EMBASSY TELEGRAM 2218. THEY POINTED OUT THAT SINCE SOVIET STAMPING OF MOVEMENT ORDERS ON AUTOBAHN HAS APPARENTLY LONG BEEN PRACTICE WITHOUT OBJECTIONS BEING RAISED, IT WAS DIFFICULT TO JUSTIFY STAND AGAINST SOME FORM OF STAMPING IN CONNECTION WITH MILITARY TRAINS, AND THEY ASKED WHAT DEPARTMENT INTENDED AS NEXT STEP IF COURSE IT PROPOSED WERE FOLLOWED AND IF SOVIETS, AS THEY UNDOUBTEDLY WOULD, MERELY REITERATED THEIR DEMANDS. (WE HAVE NOT TOLD BRITISH AND FRENCH, AND DO NOT KNOW IF THEY OTHERWISE AWARE, THAT MOVEMENT ORDERS ON US MILITARY FREIGHT TRAINS HAVE ALSO BEEN STAMPED BY SOVIETS FOR SOME TWO YEARS

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YEARS WITHOUT OBJECTIONS BEING RAISED -- BERLIN'S 838 TO DEPARTMENT JANUARY 16).

7 | 2. PURPOSE OF INSTRUCTIONS AS TRIPARTITELY DRAFTED HERE WAS TO ACHIEVE SOME INTERNALLY EXECUTED PROCEDURAL CHANGES WHICH MIGHT SETTLE QUESTION OR AT LEAST POSTPONE JANUARY 31 DEADLINE. IN DISCUSSING MATTER, POLITICAL ADVISERS WOULD NOT, OF COURSE, SAY THAT THERE HAD BEEN ABUSES WHICH NOW BEING CORRECTED, BUT MERELY INDICATE THEY HAD DECIDED TO ADOPT NEW PROCEDURE (WITH OR WITHOUT EXCEPTION FOR TRAIN CREWS, DEPENDING ON FINAL DECISION THIS POINT) TO AVOID FURTHER MISUNDERSTANDING AND DELAYS AT CHECKPOINTS. THIS WOULD NOT, I BELIEVE, CONSTITUTE COMPROMISE ON ANY POINT OF PRINCIPLE, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW FACT STAMPING BY SOVIETS THEMSELVES HAS BEEN GOING ON FOR SOME TIME IN OTHER INSTANCES.

3. IN VIEW THESE CIRCUMSTANCES AND SINCE TIME NOW GETTING SHORT, I HOPE DEPARTMENT CAN AUTHORIZE US TODAY TO LET POLITICAL ADVISERS PROCEED ON BASIS INSTRUCTIONS TRIPARTITELY AGREED HERE.

USBER AGREES.

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